

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6759**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 152

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 21, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Indiana Election Commission.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lawson C

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

*Secretary of State as Chief Election Official:* The bill provides that the Secretary of State is the state's chief election official for all purposes.

*Election Commission Membership:* The bill increases the membership of the Indiana Election Commission, with six members appointed by the Governor and the Secretary of State as a nonvoting member. It permits the Secretary of State to break tie votes. The bill provides that an appointed member of the Commission may not be a lobbyist, an officeholder for two years before appointment, or a political party officer (except for precinct committeeman, vice committeeman, or state convention delegate). This bill abolishes the process by which a state political party chairman disapproves of a Governor's appointment to the Commission. The bill provides for the election of the Commission's chair and vice chair by the Commission from the appointed members. The bill requires the chair and vice chair to be members of different political parties. The bill provides that after serving for two years, the individual elected chair becomes the vice chair and the individual elected vice chair becomes the chair. The bill increases the term of appointed Commission members from two years to four years and staggers the terms.

*Election Division and HAVA:* The bill removes certain provisions requiring the consent of the Co-Directors of the Election Division for state administration and implementation of the Help America Vote Act.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2006; January 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Election Commission Membership:* Two additional members to the Commission would receive a salary per diem and reimbursement for travel (if not state employees). The proposed additional members should be able to be incorporated within the Commission's existing level of resources. Adding the Secretary of State as member would not increase the per diem/travel expenditures of the Commission due to the Secretary's employment status. From 2001 to 2004, the Commission met an average of eight times per year. The Commission reverted \$48,445 at the close of FY 2005.

*Election Division and HAVA:* The administrative responsibilities of the Co-Directors of the Election Division would be reduced. Election Division operating expenses should be minimally affected by this provision.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Commission, Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** [www.in.gov/sos/elections/iec/index.html](http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/iec/index.html); Indiana State Budget Agency: *FY2005 General and Rainy Day Fund Summaries*.

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